Morley (*l.c.*: 222) drew attention to an Irish record of *A. gracilipes* (Ardara, Co. Donegal), which he was inclined to doubt—with reason, since it was later withdrawn as having been erroneously based on a specimen of *A. muelleri* Hbst. (Johnson & Halbert, 1902, *A List of the Beetles of Ireland*: 579). From what is said there it appears there was also a record for Armagh by Johnson, which I cannot trace, but the point is now of no consequence. What *is* important is to delete the indication of *A. gracilipes* as Irish in Moore, 1957, *Ent. Gaz.*, **8** (3): 179 (species 228), this being the definitive work on British Carabid distribution and widely used. For this mistake I fear I was—in all innocence! —partly responsible, since in earlier correspondence with Dr. Moore I had pointed out to him the existence of the Irish record; remarking on its interest *if genuine,* but counselling due caution in accepting it. Unfortunately at that time neither of us was aware that a correction had been published! — A. A. ALLEN.

INSECT FAUNA OF BUDDLEIA DAVIDII. — Mr. Antram's record (*Ent. Record,* September 1977) of the larvae of *Cucullia verbasci* L. feeding on *Buddleia davidii* prompts me to report that in July 1977 I too found the larvae of this moth on *Buddleia* in my garden at Leicester.

In a recent article (*Country Life,* 1st September, 1977) I outlined the history of *Buddleia davidii* in Britain. The bush was introduced from China about 80 years ago and, as every entomologist knows, its flowers are extremely attractive to butterflies, moths, bees, hoverflies, and many other nectar-feeding insects. *Buddleia* belongs to a family of plants unrepresented in the native British flora and we would therefore not expect its leaves to be palatable to many species of moth larvae. But records are beginning to accumulate suggesting that several species have switched to it. In addition to *C. verbasci,* I have found larvae of the following species feeding on the leaves: *Melanchra persicariae* (L.), *Orthosia stabilis* (Denis & Schiffermüller), *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), *Polymixis flavicincta* (Denis & Schiffermller), and *Odonoptera bidentata* (Clerck).

In collaboration with colleagues at Oxford, I have this year initiated a small research project aimed at assessing the importance of *Buddleia* to the British insect fauna. I would thus be glad to receive all records of insects (other than nectar-feeders) found eating the leaves, flowers, stems, or seeds of *Buddleia davidii.* — D. F. OWEN, 66 Scraptoft Lane, Leicester, LE5 1HU.

THE DEATH'S HEAD HAWKMOTH (ACHERONTIA ATROPOS L.): A SWEET ADVENTURE? — Recently, September 1977, I had occasion to have my generator and m.v. equipment tested at a firm in Guildford which I have patronised for this purpose for some time. The foreman who knows my interests, mentioned that a member of their staff had a huge moth come into their house at nearby Normandy. The young lady, Mrs. Carol Chitty, was duly summoned and told me how in the

autumn of 1976 she was about to go to bed when she noticed a huge insect at rest by the fireplace in their living room. It was duly captured and contact was made with Haslemere Museum who pronounced it to be a Death's Head; but it later transpired that its arrival, probably down the chimney, was due to a wild bees nest being lodged in it. Doubtless this insect had in some way been attracted to this source of sweetness which has often been recorded in the literature, but this is the first time I have had direct evidence of this phenomenon. It has even been said that the high-pitched whistle which the moth emits, has a mesmerising effect on the bees, but this theory is very problematical. Incidentally, the specimen in question had its portrait in the *Surrey Advertiser,* and it is still preserved by its captors. — C. G. M. de Worms, Three Oaks, Shores Road, Woking, Surrey.

A Note from Dover. — I was pleased to find one male *Lithophane leautieri* Boisd. in my trap last night. It is certainly spreading. Also of interest is a *Palpita unionalis* Hbn. that came to my trap on 11th October, the first I have had here for ten years. On the 19th October last, a *Dioryctria abietella* D. & S. came to my trap. This species has always puzzled me. It is usually out in July/August; the latest date I have previously recorded it being 26th August. This latest specimen is a small one, al. ex. 2.21 cm. — G. H. Youden, 18 Castle Avenue, Dover, CT16 1EZ, Kent, 22.x.1977.

Some Remarks on Lytta vesicatoria L. (Col.: Meloidae) in Britain. — Apropos of the Editor's record of this striking beetle in Kent some 40 years ago (*antea*: 198), it may be worth recalling that there was an "outbreak" of the species, likewise in the Canterbury district (Stourmouth), in July 1948—as reported by the late Dr. A. M. Massee in the annals of the Kent Field Club (ref. not to hand). The beetles swarmed on a privet hedge enclosing a tennis court, and were, I understand, in such numbers as to cause annoyance to the players, in consequence of which Dr. Massee's professional advice was sought. A year or so later they had quite disappeared. This is the last British occurrence of the "Spanish fly" in quantity that I know of, though there have since been one or two isolated captures elsewhere.

Although it is generally assumed that the status of *Lytta vesicatoria* in Britain is that of a casual visitor from the Continent which occasionally breeds very freely for a season or two in a particular locality, it seems never to have been noted in the act of immigration despite its very conspicuous and unmistakable appearance. On the other hand there is some evidence that a minimal resident population may persist year after year—perhaps indefinitely—in certain localities favoured by the insect, where it has appeared often at long intervals but sometimes in profusion. There seem to be two main areas, a southern and an eastern, in which the outbreaks have mostly been concentrated: S. Hants. (including Isle of Wight) west-